



# YANKEE COURIER

## What's coming up?

### April

1-2 UTA

1 Retiree Recognition Night

2 Daylight Savings ...

*don't be late for drill!*

8 FW Easter Eggstravaganza, see page 8

9 Veterans Appreciation  
Dinner, American Legion,  
Wethersfield, 655-7064

13 Bradley Family Day  
Kickoff Breakfast

### May

6-7 UTA

6 First Sergeants' Pig Roast  
see page 9

8 ESGR Golf Tournament

13 FW Fishing Derby

14 Mother's Day

19 Armed Forces Day  
Luncheon, Aqua Turf

20 Armed Forces Day

29 Memorial Day

31-4 June ORE

### June

3-4 UTA Phase II ORE

14 Flag Day

21 Summer begins

### July

8-9 UTA

22 Space and Aviation Day

### August

8-9 UTA

## Swift Takes Command *Peabody Moves to State Headquarters*



Col. Jack Swift, commander, salutes Maj. Gen. Thad Martin, Adjutant General, Connecticut, during Col. Swift, the new wing commander's, change-of-command ceremony in the main hangar March 4. Behind Col. Swift is outgoing-wing commander, Col. Dan Peabody, who becomes Connecticut's Assistant Adjutant General-Air.

### **by 2nd Lt. Jefferson S. Heiland, Deputy Public Affairs Officer**

Col. John P. Swift, an Air Force Academy graduate, took command of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing at a ceremony on base March 4. The Adjutant General for the state of Connecticut, Maj. Gen. Thad J. Martin, presided over the ceremony, handing over the reigns through a symbolic gesture when he passed the wing flag from the outgoing commander, Col. Daniel L. Peabody.

Instead of A-10 aircraft, the main hangar was filled with a formation of camouflaged Airmen, along with many family members and friends seated in front of the stage.

Senior Airman John Swift, assistant all-hazards plans, Joint Forces Headquarters, was also there in uniform but sat with his family in support of his dad.

"It was nice to be able to sit with family, rather than stand in formation," Swift said, joking about his relative comfort. He had also worked in the maintenance squadron at Bradley during the time his father was its commander, and the two would enjoy the occasional carpool.

Senior Airman Swift expressed relief, remembering that he never had to stand in front of his then-commander's desk for

**please see Command, page 6**

## COMMANDER'S COLUMN

by Col. Fred Miclon,  
Mission Support Group

### Greetings Fellow Flying Yankees!

In writing this article, my goal was to provide an informative, interesting and relevant discussion on topics in which our unit members were most interested. To assist me in this effort, I asked some of the key leaders within the Mission Support Group for their insight into what topics their people would get the most value from reading about. Their responses were varied, but I thought each was important enough to discuss in this article.

### **First and foremost - the four-letter word: BRAC**

Unfortunately I don't have a crystal ball and can't tell you with any amount of certainty what is going to happen to the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing relative to BRAC. As Col. Swift pointed out in his article last month, we have the very best people engaged and working on our behalf to secure our future. Regardless of the outcome, change will happen both here and across the Air National Guard in the coming years.

In addition to possible mission changes, either with the A-10 or in

a new airframe, we can expect many changes to our base facilities. We will see long-overdue construction and renovation projects that will update and replace some of our facilities to support new or changing missions. Changes to our mission could bring new opportunities, opening doors for training, operations and deployments in new and dynamic areas. And finally, we could see a new airframe on our ramp, one that would change the entire purpose of our existence and require diverse new skill sets for many of our members.

### **What is the latest scuttlebutt?**

Some of you may have heard rumor and speculation that if we lose the fight to keep the A-10, our next aircraft will be the new "Light Cargo Aircraft." According to a recent article in the Air Force Times, the Army and Air Force have forged an agreement to jointly purchase a light cargo aircraft and named the program the "Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA)."

The mission of a JCA would be intra-theater medium-lift airlift, to replace the Army's aging C-23 Sherpa fleet and give the Air Force the capability to operate at short-field airbases. It would be ideal for troop and cargo movement between small



airstrips in places like Iraq and Afghanistan or for critical homeland defense operations and humanitarian aid into smaller airports and austere landing zones. Basically a scaled-down, twin-engine C-130-like aircraft, it is anticipated to join the inventory in the 2010-2012 time frame.

### **Shifting gears a bit - Preparing for AEF**

With the completion of our "Higher Headquarters Inspection Triathlon" later this month when the Air Control Squadron undergoes its Unit Compli-

**please see AEF, page 10**

## Governor Launches Candle Cam- paign for De- ployed Troops

Governor M. Jodi Rell placed an electric candle in her State Capitol office window and asked Connecticut residents to do the same in their homes to show support for our troops.

"I thought this would be a

fitting gesture to recognize the dangerous tasks being carried out by the Connecticut National Guard, the U.S. Reserves, and all of our military personnel," she said. "It also demonstrates to those who have had loved

ones deployed that their Connecticut neighbors share their concerns and we appreciate what our military men and women are doing."



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Contents of the YANKEE COURIER are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of the Air Force.

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### Commander

Col. John P. Swift III

### Public Affairs Officer

Maj. George H. Worrall III

### Deputy Public Affairs Officer

2nd Lt. Jefferson S. Heiland

### Editor and Public Affairs NCOIC

Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aselton



## FLYING YANKEES BRING HOME THE HAWGSMOKE BACON

### ***Lt.Col. Frank "Crank" Detorie, 118th Fighter Squadron, Top Hog Driver***

by Maj. George H. Worrall III

103rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer

Connecticut's Hawgsmoke 2006 team took two first-place individual and a first-place team award at the worldwide A-10 flying competition held at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., March 22 to 25, 2006.

Nearly 80 A-10 pilots from 20 squadrons came together at Davis-Monthan AFB, for the worldwide A-10 competition known as Hawgsmoke 2006. Four-member teams represented squadrons from the Air National Guard, Air Force and Air Force Reserve with some traveling from as far as South Korea and Germany.

The 118th Fighter Squadron's Lt.Col. Frank "Crank" Detorie earned the Top Pilot award, the most prestigious, for his skill in all events. Lt.Col. Pete "Meat" Siana earned the "Top Low-Angle Strafe Pilot" award. Together with the two other team pilots, Majors Dave "Toro" Torres, and Bob "Stranger" Feher, earned the "Top Long-Range Strafe" trophy,



The Connecticut Air National Guard's Hawgsmoke 2006 pilots. Left to right they are Maj. Bob "Stranger" Feher, Maj. Dave "Toro" Torres, Lt.Col. Pete "Meat" Siana, and Lt.Col. Frank "Crank" Detorie, all are pilots with the 118th Fighter Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. George H. Worrall)

for their skill with the A-10s devastating 30-millimeter gun. The team also earned a second place trophy for "Top Tactical Team."

"It was a really tough competition. I was glad to be part of it," said Lt.Col. Detorie, who now has bragging rights as the world's best A-10 pilot. "We were just a team representing a very fine squadron."

The competition focuses on accurately dropping bombs, firing the Maverick missile and strafing proficiency with the A-10's 30 millimeter Gatling-gun. The judges added the individual and team scores to determine winners based on where their bombs landed and how well the pilots shot.

"You do learn a lot and hone your skills," said Lt.Col. Siana about the value of this type of competition. "You end up revisiting all the back-to-basic skills."

"It's a real pleasure to congratulate all the members of Bradley's Hawgsmoke team," said Col. John P. Swift III, commander, 103rd Fighter Wing, Connecticut Air National Guard. "From the talented combat veteran pilots, to the literally hundreds of mechanics and technicians who gave them world-class aircraft to fly, they are simply the greatest! This is truly another brilliant page in the long and proud history of the Flying Yankees!"



Senior Airman Paul Delgreco, 103rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, maintains the oil of an A-10 Thunderbolt II March 23 during the 2006 Hawgsmoke competition at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Veronica Pierce)

## INFO TO KNOW

### Flying Yankee Finance \$

#### The Base May Owe You Money!

Talk to your commander or your first shirt to see if you are on the outstanding travel or milpay monthly listings. If so, just fill out a couple forms and get paid.

#### Traveling or Deploying Soon?

Ensure your Government Travel Card (GTC) is current & active.

Contact 1-800-472-1424 for information about your account.

If you need a GTC, contact your orderly room.

#### Government Travel Card Training!

Goto: <http://fss.gsa.gov/webtraining/trainindexdocs/traveltraining/index.cfm>

As a Federal Government employee going on travel, you are expected to be familiar with Federal travel regulations and Government travel charge card policies.

#### MyPay Information!

Paper LES' are no longer available!

Goto: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

Customer service number for pin: 1-800-363-3677

Review your LES, change your address or direct deposit information for both technician and military pay

For travel pay see the finance office.



Visit the Financial Management section of the base intranet site for more information and links.

### New Airman Battle Uniform Finalized for FY 2007

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- The new Airman Battle Uniform is ready for production and will be available in fiscal 2007, said the Air Force deputy chief of staff of personnel.

Many factors were considered in developing the final uniform selection, with the concern for Airmen being at the top of the list, said Brig. Gen Robert R. Allardice.

"We were looking for a uniform that would be easier to maintain," he said. "We wanted to provide a uniform that the Airman wouldn't need to spend a lot of out-of-pocket expenses to maintain."

Also, Airmen's feedback throughout the process was beneficial in adding new pockets on the uniform.

"We listened to the Airmen's request where they wanted pockets to hold small tools and when they wear body armor the existing shirt pockets are not accessible or usable," General Allardice said. "It will have the four pockets on the front of the shirt, and also a small pencil pocket on the left forearm and two pockets on the lower legs. In addition, inside the side pockets and inside of the breast pockets there will be smaller sewn-in pockets to hold small tools, flashlights or cell phones."

The new uniform design is a pixilated tiger stripe with four soft earth tones consisting of tan, grey, green and blue. The ABU will have a permanent crease and will be offered in 50-50 nylon-cotton blend permanent press fabric eliminating the need for winter and summer weight uniforms.

Will the new ABU need to be starched and pressed?

"Absolutely not," he said. "Our uniform requirement is we want a uniform that you wash, pull it out of the dryer, and wear it. This requirement meets the ease and cost effectiveness needs in maintaining a uniform."

He speaks from personal experience and added that in the long run it will save Airmen money on dry cleaning costs.

"I tested this uniform. I wash it, take it right out of the dryer and wear it," General Allardice said. "We don't want people putting an iron on it."

The fit of the uniform was also a concern.

The new Airman Battle Uniform.  
(U.S. Air Force photo illustration)

"We're making them available in more sizes to fit the body better," he said. "We've taken the time to produce more sizes and tailored them for men and women."

A tan T-shirt will be worn along with suede polish-free cowhide boots and battle dress uniform hat (with floppy hat design in deployed areas).

The current projected mandatory wear date for the new ABU is fiscal 2011.





## UNIT PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVES

### *Flying Yankee Spotlight — Who's in the HUD?*

### Senior Airman Dawn Whelan

By Senior Master Sgt.

**Richard E. Belford, 103rd Mission Support Group UPAR**

Every organization, large and small, has to purchase supplies and services to perform its mission, and the 103<sup>rd</sup> is no exception. From doors and windows to asbestos abatement, the wing has a small staff of contract specialists to accomplish these tasks. Senior Airman Dawn Whelan is a full-time Purchasing Agent and a key player on the contracting team.

Her job is busy, and requires her to multi-task on a daily basis. Senior Airman Whelan provides business advice to commanders and customers and ensures business ethics are followed when entering into contracts with vendors. She serves as a liaison with Accounting and Finance to help expedite payment for contract completion.

In addition to purchasing supplies

and services, she is the coordinator for the Government Commercial Purchase Card program for the Connecticut Air National Guard. In this capacity she manages a program of 62 cardholder accounts and 23 billing-official accounts.

When asked what she likes about her job, she said "I am contributing to the whole mission, and I get to meet a lot of interesting people. And anytime you have a wide variety of people it provides for diverse experiences."

In a career field where the educational requirements can rival those of commissioned officers, Senior Airman Whelan is meeting the challenge of continuous, lifelong learning. She completed five courses from the Defense Acquisition University in her first six months on the job. Her formal education includes an Associate of Arts degree from the University of Maryland, and she has completed all requirements for her Associate in Applied Science degree in Finan-



cial Management from the Community College of the Air Force. Airman Whelan currently is completing two bachelor's degrees, one in business and one in education and will graduate from Charter Oak Community College in May. After earning her bachelor's degrees, she intends to start a master's program. She is also finishing her Airman Leadership School and is working hard toward her next promotion.

Airman Whelan began her military career in 2003 by enlisting as a contract specialist. Shortly thereafter, she accepted a full-time position in Accounting and Finance, and later worked at the United States Property and Fiscal Office for Connecticut in both the Travel Office and Purchasing and Contracting Office, before coming full circle and returning to base contracting in 2005.

Although she only has been in the Air National Guard for three years, she's been around the service a bit longer – she's been married to husband Jason for 13 years (an Air Force veteran and currently a master sergeant in the Communications Flight) and traveled with him during his active duty career. They have two children, Josh and Chalan.

In her "spare" time she enjoys snowboarding, skiing, camping, and showing dogs with her children. She also finds time to assist with on-base activities. She is an avid "Tigger" fan and has adorned her work space with numerous versions of the popular character.

### UPAR CONTACT LIST

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<b>2nd Lt. Sherry Janarelli</b> sherry.janarelli@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	<b>Maintenance</b> x2419
<b>Senior Master Sgt. Richard Belford</b> Richard.belford@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	<b>Mission Support</b> x2320
<b>Tech. Sgt. Roger Krasusky</b> roger.krasusky@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	<b>Operations</b> x 2514
<b>Staff Sgt. Jessica Roy</b> Jessica.roy@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	<b>Security Forces</b> x2312
<b>Senior Airman Joshua Mead</b> joshua.mead@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	<b>Services</b> x 2340

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disciplinary reasons.

"Can you imagine? That's all you need, father and commander rolled into one--twice the wrath," he said. Becoming more serious, he added, "He's a great guy. He's always been very supportive of all of us (in our family). I think he'll do well. He's really excited about the (new) job."

Col. Swift's daughter, Elizabeth, sang the national anthem at the ceremony.

Col. Swift, 47, will lead the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing, composed of more than 1,000 full and part-time Airmen. He will oversee all aspects of base operations, including aviation, maintenance, and support operations for the Bradley wing and its geographically separated squadron, the 103<sup>rd</sup> Air Control Squadron, in Orange.

Col. Swift entered the military as an Air Force Academy cadet in 1977. Upon graduation from the academy, undergraduate pilot training, and fighter lead

training, he began his A-10 flying career. Following A-10 Thunderbolt II training at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (AFB), Ariz., he was assigned to England AFB, La. as an A-10 Pilot in 1983. From 1986 to 1988, he served as an A-10 Weapons Officer at two different Royal Air Force Bases in the United Kingdom.

Col. Swift left the active duty Air Force in 1989 and continued his service in the military by joining the Connecticut Air National Guard the same year. During the next ten years, he served as the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group Operations Plans Officer, the Weapons and Tactics Chief, and as the Standardization and Evaluation Chief. He has held several positions in the wing's 118<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, including A-Flight Commander, Operations Officer, and then culminating with its command. Col. Swift then earned an appointment to attend the United States Naval War College, New-

port, R.I. in 1999. Upon his return to Connecticut in 2000, he served as the 103<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Squadron Commander until 2003 when he became the 103<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing Vice Commander. In August of 2004, he assumed command of Bradley's largest single unit, the 103<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Group.

One member of that group, Senior Master Sgt. Peter J. Martucci, munitions element chief, 103<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Squadron, said Swift was an excellent choice for wing commander.

"I'm excited that he's our Wing Commander because he was our Maintenance Group Commander during some of the toughest times. I think he brings a lot to the table for the wing. He's extremely dedicated and committed to the organization," Martucci said. "I think the fighter wing has always been very fortu-

nate to have someone like Col. Swift. He's the perfect role model for the future leaders of the wing, both officer and NCO."

As Col. Swift addressed the wing, he cited the inspiration he found during a recent walk around Washington, D.C. "There it was, eight-inch-tall black letters etched in the Georgian marble that make up the panels inside the Jefferson Memorial, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident'. Sounds redundant, but if it was good enough for Jefferson in a time of crisis like the Revolution, maybe we should be searching for some truths of our own to cling to," he said.

The wing's new commander challenged its members. "Here are the truths I'd like you to cling to: times are changing, we can handle it well-within our stride, teamwork and watching out for each other is the key," he said.

Col. Swift lives in Enfield with his wife and family.

## High School Career Day Set for May

### *Recruiters seeking event assistance*

Come give Recruiting and Retention a hand when the wing hosts High School Career Day here May 24.

Students from several area vocational and technical high schools will be attending and many local traditional high school students are invited to see the many opportunities for them in the Connecticut Air National Guard. Planned activities include demonstrations, briefings by unit members, and firing the FATS system with Security Forces, as well as a cookout-style lunch.

This recruiting event needs your help to make it a success. If you know a school or students that would like to participate or want to help, please contact Senior Master Sgt. Tony Deangelis at (860) 292-2331.

# Joint Cargo Aircraft in our Future?

by Col. Fred Miclon,

## Mission Support Group Commander

The Air Force and Army have agreed on a new joint program to develop a fleet of light cargo aircraft. The aircraft, to be known as the Joint Cargo Aircraft or JCA, will not only replace the Army's aging fleet of C-23 Sherpas but also provide the Air Force with much-needed intra-theater airlift capability, a mission now provided by aircraft such as the C-17 and C-130 and the Army's Sherpa.

In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on March 1, Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Moseley spoke of plans to procure as many as 150 of these aircraft.

A turf battle began last year as the Army began competition for a Sherpa replacement. As the number of aircraft the Army planned to purchase rose, Air Force officials became concerned that more of the airlift mission was creeping to the Army and became engaged in negotiating a joint program to benefit both services.

Although firm numbers have yet to be determined, Gen. Moseley testified that it would be in the neighborhood of 150 for the Air Force and about 70 for the Army.

"The Sherpa is not really an intra-theater plane," Moseley said. "What we're talking about is a no-kidding intra-theater aircraft that can defend itself." Having self defense systems on board means it will be a frontline

player in any current or future expeditionary environment.

This aircraft will also prove valuable in supporting homeland defense and providing humanitarian aid, either at home or abroad. Having the capability to operate from shorter runways than the C-130 or C-17 and to haul more cargo or passengers than the Sherpa, it will definitely be a force multiplier while saving the cost of employing the larger airframe aircraft.

In the hands of the Guard, Air or Army, this aircraft will also prove its worth. As a tool at the Governor's disposal to move equipment or personnel in times of state crisis or in support of other states needs it will be an in-demand airframe.

A contractor has not been selected but two highly regarded candidates are the Global Military Aircraft Systems C-27 Spartan and the European Aeronautic and Defense Space Company - EADS - CASA C-295.

Both are currently operating aircraft and are twin turboprop, high-wing aircraft capable of operating on short and unimproved landing areas.



C-295

C-27j

## 103rd Fighter Wing Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 8, 2006

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Building 24 Dining Hall

Pre-registration is Required  
\$1.00 Registration Per Family

Call Mrs. Donna Rivera to Register  
at 860-292-2730 or 800-992-6056  
or email  
[donna.rivera.ctr@ctbrad.ang.af.mil](mailto:donna.rivera.ctr@ctbrad.ang.af.mil)



Come and see the Easter Bunny  
and have your picture taken  
together.

GAMES & PRIZES

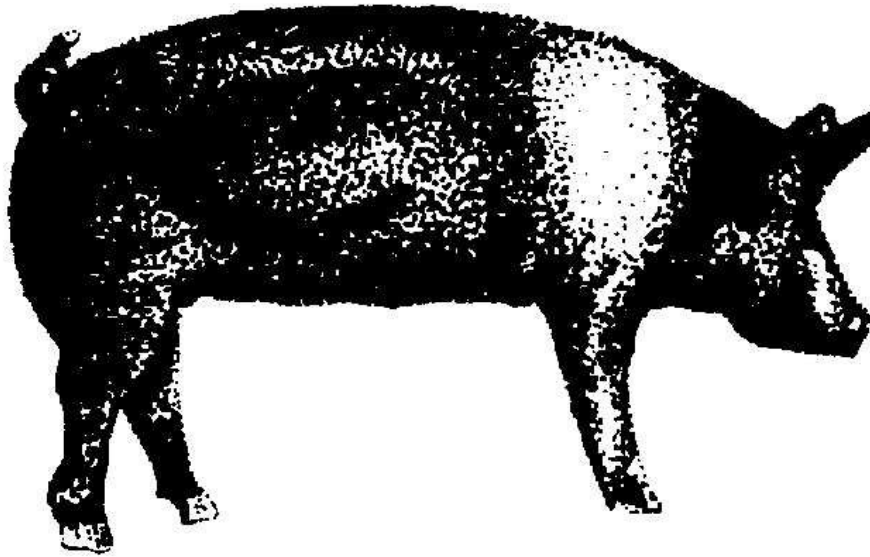
Easter Goodie Bag for All Kids

Hot Dogs

Pot luck Dessert and Salad  
Dishes

(Contact Mrs. Rivera if you are  
able to provide a dish.)





# The First Sergeants' Pig Roast

May 6, 2006

Zebra Club

1630-2100 hours

*For tickets see any first sergeant*

*\$15 members 21 and over*

*\$10 members under 21*

## Chaplain's Corner

by (Capt.) Chaplain David Larsen

At some point in life's journey, most people look for ultimate meaning in life. Something beyond the ordinary tasks and ambitions of every day. A reason for it all. Either a new understanding of ultimate truth or a connection with a divine Person. This month the Jews among us will celebrate God's great deliverance of their ancestors from slavery in Egypt. The Christians will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In both religions, the God who provides ultimate meaning is all about relationship. In the book of Genesis (shared by both religions), God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice 'his son, his only son, Isaac, whom he loves'. In the Christian scriptures, the same God sacrifices his son, his only son, Jesus, whom he loves. Isaac is ultimately spared. Jesus is raised from the dead. While the two religions share the same personal God and a lot of sacred text, they are still quite distinct in their ultimate conclusions. Which brings me to my point.

We are not the same! We have quite a number of different religions on this base. At that's OK. In our great freedom to pursue ultimate truth, we will naturally come to different conclusions. And in most cases, to believe one ultimate truth wholeheartedly, means that other ultimate truths must be wrong. This is objective rather than judgmental. In other words, if ultimate truth is one thing, it logically cannot be another. In most cases this is a theological necessity. This

does not mean, of course, that we cannot get along. Because unity does not require uniformity. To the contrary, our unity is proved by our ability to get along in spite of our genuine differences.

Neither our federal government nor our military seeks to establish or promote any particular religion. But both our government and our military are made up of people who are themselves individual and particular in their belief (or lack of belief).

This religious freedom is a great privilege. We don't have to walk around on eggshells when it comes to our religious differences, because we have freedom of speech as well as freedom of religions. And if we communicate our beliefs with mutual respect and honest humility, we may even learn something that draws us closer to the ultimate meaning in life that we seek.

Whatever you believe, my hope as your chaplain is that you believe it with all your heart. And question it. And test it. And grow in it. Though my teaching and preaching is limited to the sphere of my own particular beliefs, I am committed to helping you to pursue your own beliefs to the best of my ability. And may all of us who pray, pray together that all of us will come to a knowledge of truth.

### AEF cont. from page 2

ance Inspection, we can begin to focus on looking forward to our next AEF participation. With barely time to take a breath after almost two years of preparing for inspections, we are now within nine months of our on-call period for AEF 5/6 scheduled for January 2007.

This doesn't mean we are not committing troops to the war until that time, as we now have seven CTANG personnel currently deployed overseas for periods of up to 179 days and are preparing to send at least another 18 in the coming months to various locations in Southwest Asia.

In March we also welcomed home Master Sgt. Perry Whited and Tech. Sgts. Shawn Glassee and Jennifer Gray from their recent mobilization and 179 day tour in Kuwait. **WELCOME HOME AND JOB WELL DONE!**

### For those not yet tasked - Get ready

We need to lean forward now to ensure all Airmen get the readiness training needed to be effective and safe if deployed to the AOR. We will soon be receiving standardized "EXPEDITIONARY AIRMAN TRAINING" directed by the Air Staff to ensure every Airman arrives at their deployed location with a baseline set of skills. These Expeditionary Combat Skills, also known as INTEGRATED BASE DEFENSE, consist of training designed to make all Airmen proficient and comfortable with handling a weapon and working within a team to defend themselves, their team, and their mission.

With the Air Force transforming to a more expeditionary force and operating in environments such as Iraq and Afghanistan, every Airman needs to become skilled at providing a level of awareness and defense to secure the base. Air

Force Chief General Moseley, in a letter to all Airmen earlier this year, stated the transformation "...includes the concept whereby every Airman - regardless of rank, position, or AFSC-is trained as a base defender."

With our Security Forces personnel doing more and more of their job on the outside of the base perimeter, the rest of us need to be able to support and augment our defenses. This is an area that will not only be tested during our next ORI, but one that is currently employed at bases across the AOR.

### Managing the Homefront

To ensure we are ready to serve at any time, not only do we need to train and prepare, we also need to have everything at home in order so things go smoothly if and when we do deploy. Be sure your VRED is up-to-date and if you don't know what VRED is you better talk to your supervisor! Get your personal affairs in order so the families you leave behind can manage in

see Homefront next page

## Free Tax Software

Commercial "TurboTax" software available and provided to you at no cost by the Department of Defense.

go to <http://www.airforceonesource.com/>

## Free Theme Park Admission

Anheuser-Busch's Entertainment companies, maker of Budweiser beer, is continuing its salute to the armed forces and their families. Throughout 2006, members of the military and as many as three direct dependents may enter any one of Anheuser-Busch's SeaWorld, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks with a single-day complimentary admission.

### Details:

-Complimentary admission for active military and active members of a reserve or National Guard unit, and/or up to three direct dependants.

-Valid for one complimentary single-day admission per person, per year, to one of the following Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks:

- o SeaWorld Orlando, San Diego, or San Antonio
- o Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg
- o Sesame Place
- o Water Country USA
- o Adventure Island

Offer valid between 1/1/2006 and 12/31/2006.

Operating days and hours vary by park.

Please check with specific park for current operating schedule.

Register and get complete details at: [www.herosalute.com](http://www.herosalute.com)

## Zebra Club News

The Zebra Club provides wing members an opportunity to relax and socialize with their fellow Guard members during off-duty hours.

Club hours are every Tuesday through Friday 1630 to 2300 and drill weekends, 1630 to 2300. You must be a current member to enter. If you're not a member, a one year membership may be purchased at the door for \$10.00.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAY:** First Sergeants' Pig Roast. Tickets are available from your first sergeant and at the club.

**SUMMER:** There are also plans to provide live musical entertainment this summer, so watch for more info on which bands will be performing.

Please contact Staff Sgt. Erin Hurly at 292-2753 or Staff Sgt. Tina Blake at 292-2522 for more information on club activities.



### Homefront continued from previous page

your absence. These are all things we practice and preach during exercises and briefings, but it is amazing how many people wait until the last minute to get things in order.

### Support the Troops

Do what you can to support those who are currently engaged in fighting this war on terrorism. Seek support from family members, civic organizations such as Scouts, Rotary Club or VFWs, and if possible, donate some time to our own Family Support Program here at the wing. While we were deployed to OIF in 2003, the support provided by our Family Program was instru-

mental in keeping up the spirits of our families and in supporting many things they needed in our absence.

### Thanks for your support

I would like to end with thanking each and every one of you for all you do to make this a great organization. I feel extremely privileged to be a part of such a fine unit and look forward to continued success with the help and support of each and every one of you.

REMEMBER - BE READY - DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!



# Since last drill...

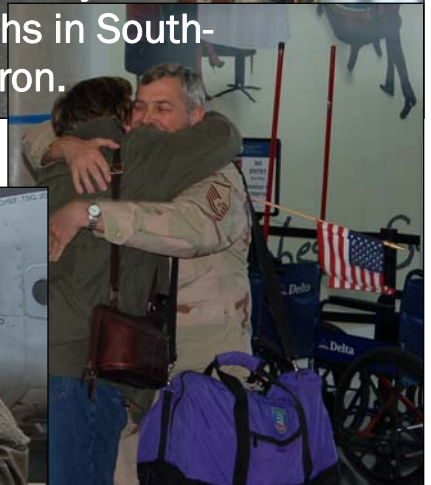


103rd Civil Engineering enlisted our first female firefighter, Airman 1st Class Lisa Ann Deskis

103rd Maintenance Group hosted the TF-34 engine conference to determine how to re-engine the A-10 fleet.



Tech. Sgt. Shawn A. Glassee, Tech. Sgt. Jennifer K. Gray and Master Sgt. Perry D. Whited returned from 6 months in Southwest Asia, all of 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron.



The Flying Yankee Hawgsmoke team did a phenomenal job.

All photos except A1C Deskis by Maj. George Worrall, 103 FW/PA. A1C Deskis photo by 1st Lt. Krzysztof Kucharski, 103 CES.